



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Water Department

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Satellites Observe Ways to Conserve

By Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager

SAN DIEGO – Satellite technology will soon be an integral part of water conservation efforts in San Diego. For the first time, the City of San Diego will use satellite imagery to help accurately determine water budgets for landscaped areas citywide. The project is a joint partnership between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the City of San Diego Water Department.

AgriCast Company, the technical consultant, will turn the satellite imagery from multispectral color images into a functioning Geographical Information System (GIS) map. From this map, the Water Department can estimate overall water usage and determine how much water is needed to maintain the landscape.

“It is estimated that by properly watering existing landscapes, the overall water use in the City can be reduced by at least 10 percent,” said Dan Carney, Water Department Landscape Architect. “Information gained from this map could save consumers millions of dollars each year.”

In addition to assisting water conservation efforts, the new map will provide information that can be used for environmental impact studies, fire prevention efforts, city planning, stormwater runoff studies, and other applications.

This project will begin in June, 2004, and will be completed in one year.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619.515.3500.